

Attorney Docket No. 967/43620  
PATENT

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#4/A

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: HANS OETIKER AG et al.  
Serial No.: PCT/EP/2003/14436  
Filed: December 18, 2003  
For: RETAINING CLAMP

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop PCT  
Commissioner for Patents  
Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

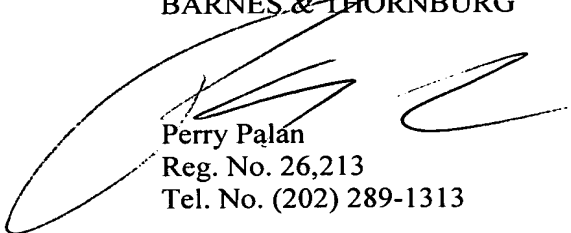
Please amend the subject application as shown in the attachments hereto. Please amend the claims as indicated, canceling Claims 1 through 11 and adding new claims 12 through 19. Also enclosed is an amended abstract which omits the reference numbers from the PCT abstract.

**REMARKS**

Examination of the subject application is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BARNES & THORNBURG



Perry Palan  
Reg. No. 26,213  
Tel. No. (202) 289-1313

Enclosures

Barnes & Thornburg LLP  
750 17<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Suite 900  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
202 289-1313 (phone)  
202 289 1330 (fax)